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East Germany

COUNTRY

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

3d Infantry Regiment of the Prora KVP Division

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE PREPARED

5 June 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The 3d Inf Regt was stationed in Prora and was subordinate to the 1st Div, whose headquarters was also stationed at Prora. This division belonged to Armeegruppe Nord with the Armeegruppe headquarters stationed at Pasewalk. The whole regiment was located in a camp of brick buildings in Prora, which also quartered tank, signal, motorcycle and motor transport units and included six-story barracks buildings, each of a capacity of about 180 men which had 10 entrances and large bedrooms. Officers and NCOs were quartered in rooms with six to eight cots.¹
2. Officers assigned to the unit included Lieutenant Colonel Pilz (fnu), who was the commander of the division prior to November 1952, when he went to the military academy in Moscow; Lieutenant Colonel Doerfel (fnu), who became commander of the division in November 1952; Major Geisler (fnu), regimental commander of the 3d Inf Regt; Major Heinrich (fnu), political officer of the 3d Inf Regt; Major Ertel (fnu), chief of staff; Senior Lieutenant Kuss (fnu), commander of the I Bn; Captain Neumann (fnu), political officer of the I Bn; Senior Lieutenant Elis (fnu), chief of staff of the I Bn; Lieutenant Rose (fnu), director of training; Junior Lieutenant Schein (fnu), deputy of Lieutenant Rose; Junior Lieutenant Knetsch (fnu), Party secretary; Senior Lieutenant Halbauer (fnu), commander of the mortar company; Senior Lieutenant Heinicke (fnu), political officer of the mortar company; Lieutenant Jurczek (fnu), director of training of the mortar company; Lieutenant Hintze (fnu), commander of the B battery; Lieutenant Ackermann (fnu), political officer of the B battery; Lieutenant Schultz (fnu), director of training of the B battery; Junior Lieutenant Neumann, commander of the 2d Co; Junior Lieutenant Grabowsky (fnu), commander of the 3d Co; and Captain Mikhailov (fnu), Soviet adviser to the mortar company.¹
3. In late January 1953, the 3d Inf Regt numbered about 1,500 men excluding officers and was organized into the headquarters; 3 battalions of 3 rifle companies, one heavy machine gun company, one B battery and one mortar company; one ration supply platoon; one motorcycle platoon of 12 men; and one motor transport platoon. Each rifle company was organized into 3 platoons of 3 squads and had an authorized strength of 110 to 120 men and an actual strength of about 100 men. The heavy machine gun company had an authorized strength of 60 men and an actual strength of about 50 men. The B battery,

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which had an authorized strength of 60 men and an actual strength of about 50 men, was organized into 3 platoons of 3 squads, which included the 1st Platoon with three 45-mm AT guns, the 2d Platoon with three 12.7-mm AA machine guns, and the 3d Platoon called AT rifle platoon, which, at the time of information, had no weapons, and one reconnaissance platoon, which had no subunits. The mortar company had an authorized strength of 66 men and an actual strength of 61 men and was organized into 3 platoons of 3 squads, each equipped with one medium mortar, and one reconnaissance platoon of 3 radio operators, 3 computers, 3 scouts and 3 assistant scouts. The ration supply platoon of the regiment comprised the 7 or 8 field kitchens assigned to each battalion and numbered 30 to 35 men.²

4. The mortar company, in accordance with the T/O & E was equipped with nine Soviet-style 82-mm mortars, 23 rifles and 23 submachine guns. The B battery was equipped with three 45-mm AT guns, 25 rifles, three 12.7-mm AA machine guns and 27 submachine guns. The heavy machine gun company was equipped with water-cooled Maxim heavy machine guns and air-cooled DP heavy machine guns. The rifle companies were equipped with rifles, submachine guns and DP light machine guns. The weapons arrived from Prenzlau in November 1952. No ammunition was in stock. A gun depot and a tank depot also were in the area of the camp at Prora. The former stored 122-mm field howitzers, 75-mm field guns, 45-mm AT guns, AA guns and heavy mortars and the latter stored T-34 tanks and SP guns. The tank depot was guarded by Soviet soldiers, but belonged to the Prora KVPD.
5. From 25 to 30 Horch Diesel trucks, 5 to 8 Phaenomen ambulances and 2 to 4 BMW sedans were in the motor vehicle yard of the regiment. The vehicles which were also supplied in October and November 1952, were blocked up and sealed and were not released for operation. Only 3 trucks were used for the kitchen of the regiment. From 50 to 60 SIS trucks with front and rear wheel drive, whose unit was unidentified, also were at the gun yard.
6. Training of the troops included instruction on weapons, basic and close combat training and attack and defense practices. During night exercises at battalion level, one portion of the battalion acted on the defending and the other portion on the attacking side. No ammunition was used during these exercises. Heavy weapons were occasionally represented by firecrackers. it was announced that a maneuver at regiment level with all weapons and practice ammunition was scheduled to be held from 16 to 20 February 1953.
7. The 1st Bn of the 3d Inf Regt, which consisted of Brandenburgers, was activated in Kirchmoeser and, on 14 August 1952, moved to Prora.
8. the headquarters of Armeegruppe Mitte was stationed at this place.
9. Lieutenant General Rudolf Doelling was the political officer of the HVKVP.⁴
1. Comment. It is undetermined whether the Prora Div is the 1st Div. Reports not Lieutenant Colonel Doerfel (fnu), but Lieutenant Colonel Roehr (fnu), is the commander of the Prora Div.
2. Comment. The statements on organization and equipment generally agree with reports
3. Comment. The headquarters of Armeegruppe Mitte, which is also designated as TWV Dessau is stationed at Dessau-Kochstedt.

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4. [REDACTED] Comment. Lieutenant General Rudolf Doelling actually is the deputy for political affairs of Minister Stoph for all elements of the National Forces including navy and air force.

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